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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 IO-13 /036 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7360
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1545
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1889

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

DEPT. FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: /A
SUBJECT: BLACK EDITOR DEFENDS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY
PERCY QOBOZA, EDITOR OF JOHANNESBURG/SOWETO BLACKORIENTED
NEWSPAPER " THE WORLD, APRIL 19. " THE WORLD"
IS SECOND LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY NEWSPAPER IN RSA,
AND EDITOR QOBOZA HAS PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED MR. YOUNG'S
STATEMENTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

EDITORIAL TITLES: " WHY ANDREW YOUNG REASONS AS HE DOES."

TEXT: " THE HATRED AND CONTEMPT IN WHICH MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS
ARE HOLDING AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, MR.
ANDY YOUNG, IS STEADILY REACHING HYSTERIAL LEVELS.
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HIS UTTERANCES HAVE EVOKED ANGRY DENUNCIATION. SUCH REACTION
SOMETIMES BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT THINKING MEN SHOULD
ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO CONCEDE WHEN THE TRUTH IS BEING TOLD ABOUT
THEM

AND IT IS THE TRAGIC NATURE OF AFFAIRS IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY THAT

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WHILE WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS FEEL VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH YOUNG'S PRONOUNCEMENTS, THE MAJORITY OF BLACK PEOPLE AGREE WITH HIM.

ONE OF YOUNG'S BIGGEST STRENGTHS IS HIS ABILITY TO CRITICISE HIS OWN COUNTRY'S PAST PERFORMANCES ON MATTERS SUCH AS CIVIL RIGHTS. FOR THIS HE HAS PLEADED GUILTY AND SO HAS HIS COUNTRY-- AMERICANS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR PAST EXPERIENCES. THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN. BEING HUMAN, THESE MISTAKES WILL CONTINUE TO CROP UP IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE BY DESIGN BUT BY ACCIDENT.
APPLYING THE SAME PRINCIPLE, ANDY HAS GONE FORWARD TO LOOK AT, AND TO CRITICISE OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE SAME BASIS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HAD ANY REASON TO APOLOGISE TO THE BRITISH FOR THEIR SORDID HISTORY OF RACIALISM ON THE BLACK CONTINENT IN THE OLD COLONIAL DAYS. OF COURSE, THE BRITISH WERE " CHICKENS" WHEN THEY ALLOWED IAN SMITH TO EMBARK ON A TREASONABLE ROAD THROUGH UDI WITHOUT AS MUCH AS FLEXING A MUSCLE AGAINST THIS CHALLENGE TO BRITISH AUTHORITY. AND IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS CHICKEN ATTITUDE THAT THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION IS THREATENED WITH A BLOODBATH THAT MAY BE UNLEASHED BY RHODESIA'S RELUCTANCE TO DO THE RIGHT THING. BUT WE BELIEVE THE BRITISH HAVE AND ARE STILL RECTIFYING THE HARM OF THE COLONIAL DAYS.

AS FOR THE REMARK ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF OTHERWISE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.... WELL, THIS IS ALSO OPEN TO INTERPRETATION, DEPENDING ON WHICH SIDE OF THE FENCE YOU ARE. WHITESWOULD GET IRRITATED BY ANYONE, LEAST OF ALL ANDY YOUNG, QUESTIONING THE LEGALITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. I CAN UNDERSTAND
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THAT. THEY VOTED THE GOVERNMENT INTO POWER BECAUSE THEY HAVE

THE VOTE.
WE ARE QP WHEN IT COMES TO OUR PEOPLE. AFTER ALL WE NOT HAVE THE VOTE, AND HAVE NEVER DECIDED WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD REIGN. AND WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SPEAKS AND EXERCISES ITS AUTHORITY, IT DOES SO FOR THE WHITE MAN. THIS IS HOW ANDY YOUNG REASONS AND WE BELIEVE THAT RATHER WASTE ALL THE EFFORT JUSTIFYING AN UNJUSTIFIABLE SITUATION, SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY TO RIGHT THE WRONGS IN OUR SOCIETY. THE SOONER WE -- LIKE THE AMERICANS -- ACKNOWLEDGE OUR WRONGS AND STRIVE TO CORRECT THEM, THE BETTER. OTHERWISE WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE WORLD'S POLECAT." HUGHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Subject: BLACK EDITOR DEFENDS AMBASSADOR YOUNG SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY PERCY QOBOZA, EDITOR OF JOHANNESBURG/SOWETO BLACKO
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